NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Madeleine Clayton 12/07/2001

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer Office of the Chief Information Officer 14th and Constitution Ave. NW.

Room 6086

Washington, DC 20230

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken the following action on your request for the extension of approval of an information collection received on 10/11/2001.

TITLE: Processed Products Family of Forms

AGENCY FORM NUMBER(S): 88-13,88-13C

ACTION: APPROVED OMB NO.: 0648-0018

EXPIRATION DATE: 12/31/2004

BURDEN	RESPONSES	BURDEN HOURS	BURDEN COSTS
Previous	1,350	655	0
New	1,400	680	0
Difference	50	25	0
Program Chan	ge	25	0
Adjustment		0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: None

NOTE: The agency is required to display the OMB control number and inform respondents of its legal significance (see 5 CFR 1320.5(b)).

OMB Authorizing Official Title

Donald R. Arbuckle Deputy Administrator, Office of

Information and Regulatory Affairs

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's

Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503. 1. Agency/Subagency originating request 2. OMB control number b. [] None 3. Type of information collection (*check one*) Type of review requested (check one) Regular submission a. [b. [Emergency - Approval requested by ____ a. [] New Collection Delegated b. [] Revision of a currently approved collection c. [] Extension of a currently approved collection 5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? [] Yes [] No d. [] Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired e. [] Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired 6. Requested expiration date f. [] Existing collection in use without an OMB control number a. [] Three years from approval date b. [] Other Specify: For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions 7. Title 8. Agency form number(s) (if applicable) 9. Keywords 10. Abstract 11. Affected public (Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x") 12. Obligation to respond (check one) a. __Individuals or households d. ___Farms
b. __Business or other for-profite. ___Federal Government] Voluntary Business or other for-profite. Federal Government
Not-for-profit institutions f. State, Local or Tribal Government Required to obtain or retain benefits 1 Mandatory 13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden 14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (in thousands of a. Number of respondents b. Total annual responses a. Total annualized capital/startup costs 1. Percentage of these responses b. Total annual costs (O&M) collected electronically c. Total annualized cost requested c. Total annual hours requested d. Current OMB inventory d. Current OMB inventory e. Difference e. Difference f. Explanation of difference f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change 1. Program change 2. Adjustment 2. Adjustment 16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (check all that apply) 15. Purpose of information collection (Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X") a. [] Recordkeeping b. [] Third party disclosure] Reporting a. ___ Application for benefits Program planning or management 1. [] On occasion 2. [] Weekly Program evaluation f. Research 3. [] Monthly General purpose statistics g. Regulatory or compliance 4. [] Quarterly 5. [] Semi-annually 6. [] Annually 7. [] Biennially 8. [] Other (describe) 18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding 17. Statistical methods Does this information collection employ statistical methods the content of this submission) [] Yes [] No Phone:

OMB 83-I 10/95

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

- (a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;
- (b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;
- (c) It reduces burden on small entities;
- (d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;
- (e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;
- (f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;
- (g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):
 - (i) Why the information is being collected;
 - (ii) Use of information;
 - (iii) Burden estimate;
 - (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
 - (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
 - (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;
- (h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);
- (i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and
- (j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee Date

OMB 83-I 10/95

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator or head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or Staff Office)					
Signature	Date				
Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer					
Signature	Date				

SUPPORTING STATEMENT PROCESSED PRODUCTS FAMILY OF FORMS OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0018

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

NOAA Form 88-13 is used to collect annual information on seafood and industrial fishery processing plants. These data are required by the Secretary of Commerce in carrying out provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq. as amended). Each fishery management plan established under the Act must determine the estimated capacity by U.S. seafood processors for the managed fishery. Data from this survey are used in economic analyzes to estimate the capacity and extent of which U.S. fish processors, on an annual basis, will process that portion of the optimum yield harvested by domestic fishing vessels. Employment data are used in socioeconomic analyzes for determining potential impacts on processing employment due in part to management measures..

Dealers processing bluefish, sea scallops, summer flounder, black sea bass, scup, mackerel, monkfish, squid, butterfish, Northeast multispecies, spiny dogfish, herring, and tilefish in the NMFS Northeast Region are required (50 CFR 648.7) to submit the 88-13 form.

NMFS no longer surveys the seafood wholesale industry. The need to reduce costs necessitated a review of the survey. The information on employment will now be garnered from the Bureau of Labor Statistics via an inter-agency agreement. NMFS uses private published sources to derive information on the type of products being sold through wholesale operations.

NOAA Form 88-13c is used to collect monthly production of fish meal and oil. These data are needed by the Department of Commerce to report market and supply conditions and are used by industry to procure sufficient inputs to produce such products as feed, paint, and lubricants (13 U.S.C. 61 et. seq.).

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used.

The data on volume and value are used by NMFS and Regional Council economists to estimate processing capacity and to forecast and subsequently measure the economic impact of fishery management regulations on fish and shellfish supplies. The employment data are used to analyze the seasonality of a specific fishery. The data are also used for establishing negotiating positions on international trade by determining which seafood industries might be adversely affected by reducing or eliminating established tariffs.

Data from the annual survey are reported in Fisheries of the United States, Statistical Abstract of the United States, and Agricultural Statistics. As a member of the United Nations' FAO and the

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, NMFS supplies aggregate data to these organizations.

The information collected through the family of forms is also utilized by various other federal agencies. NMFS supports the International Trade Commission with their various trade investigations by supplying aggregate data on specific processed seafood items. The Office of Management and Budget annually requests information on the processing of seafood. The Customs Service, Department of the Treasury, establishes the annual tariff-rate quota for tuna fish described in item 1604.14.20 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States based on the U.S. canned tuna production for the preceding calendar year (19 U.S.C. 3007). Failure to collect these data would prevent the Secretary of Commerce from meeting the statutory obligations under the Act. It would also prevent the Customs Service from establishing the annual tariff-rate quota on canned tuna.

3. <u>Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.</u>

In the current survey, NMFS provides each processor a pre-printed form that includes the products produced by the dealer in the previous year. The dealer only needs to fill in the quantities, and add any new products, before returning the form every year. Every effort will be made in the future to use computer technology to reduce the public burden, if resources become available.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act's operational guidelines require each FMP to evaluate existing state and federal laws that govern the fisheries in question, and the findings are made part of each FMP. Under the Act, the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) has the responsibility for the conservation and management of marine fishery resources, much of which has been delegated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/NMFS. Under this stewardship role, the Secretary was given certain regulatory authorities to ensure the most beneficial uses of these resources. One of the regulatory steps taken to carry out the conservation and management objectives is to collect data from users of the resource. Therefore, NMFS is confident that it is aware of similar collections if they exist.

5. <u>If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.</u>

Since most of the respondents are considered small businesses, separate requirements based on size of business have not been developed. Only the minimum data are requested.

6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

If the collection was not conducted, NMFS would lack key economic data for making fishery decisions. The frequency cannot be reduced. A standard, annual submission will be required for dealers. Since dealer entry into and exit from a fishery is common, an annual collection allows NMFS to use the most accurate information available to compile employment data.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

The data collection is consistent with OMB guidelines.

8. Provide a copy of the PRA Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

The PRA Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the information collection is attached; no comments were received.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payments or gifts are made.

10. <u>Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.</u>

The data contained in the forms will be kept confidential as required by NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Confidentiality of Fisheries Statistics, and will not be released for public use except in aggregate statistical form without identification as to its source.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.

See Table 1.

13. <u>Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection.</u>

None. The forms are provided with postage-fee envelopes. No new equipment should be needed.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

The estimated Cost to Government is \$2,796

Estimated Cost of Printing: 1,400 forms at 4 cents per copy = \$56 Estimated Cost of Mailing: 1,400 forms at 64 cents total = \$896

Estimated Staff Support: 220 hours at GS 7/1 salary(\$12.71/hour) = \$2,796

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB 83-I.

This action is merging the requirements for Atlantic Herring approved under 0648-0405.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

Results from this collection may be used in scientific, management, technical or general informational publications such as Fisheries of the United States, which follows prescribed statistical tabulations and summary table formats. Data are available to the general public on request in summary form only; data are available to NMFS employees in detailed form on a need-to-know basis only.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

N/A.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of the OMB 83-I.

There are no exceptions.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

If your collection does not employ statistical methods.

Table 1. Calculation of Public and Federal Estimate of Reporting Burden Hours and Costs.

Permit Requirement	Number of Entities	Items/ Entity	Total Number of Items	Response Time (Hours)	Total Burden (Hours)	Cost (\$) to Public
NOAA Form 88-13	1,320	1	1,320	0.5	660	0
NOAA Form 88-13c	20	4	80	.25	20	0
Totals	1,320*		1,400		680	0

^{*} Excludes duplication

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Dear Processor:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) conducts an annual survey of all seafood processors that operate in the United States. Your firm has been identified as participating in this industry. Please take a moment and fill out the enclosed form and return it in the enclosed envelope.

This survey is the only comprehensive survey of the U.S. seafood processing industry and is the source of all regional and national statistics. Reports generated from these statistics include <u>Fisheries of the United States</u> and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's yearbook, <u>Fishery Statistics-Commodities</u>.

The data you provide are also used for calculating annual United States seafood consumption and for determining the value added margins and consumer expenditures related to commercial fisheries. The NMFS Trade Office and the International Trade Commission use the data in multilateral trade negotiations and tariff studies. Industry trade organizations and members of the industrial and financial communities use the data to make business decisions affecting the fishing and seafood industries.

While you may not be required to report, please be assured that all information regarding production and employment of individual firms is maintained in a confidential manner pursuant to NOAA Administrative Order 216-100.

For those processors who have dealer permits issued by the NMFS, Northeast Regional Office there is a mandatory requirement (50 CFR Part 648.7(a)(3)) to complete all sections of the survey for all species or shellfish that were processed during the previous year.

Instructions are provided to assist you in completely and accurately preparing the forms. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact your nearest Port Agent office listed on the enclosed sheet.

Sincerely,

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FORM

- 1. Check your company name, mailing address, and phone/fax numbers. If your plant address differs from your mail address please fill in the appropriate information. Make any necessary corrections that you find in error.
- 2. In the upper right hand corner indicate the type of business you operate.
- 3. In the box to the right of your address is the employment section. Enter by month the number of persons which worked at the establishment during the payroll period that included the 12th of the month. Do not forget to include yourself.
- 4. Directly beneath the employment section, please print or type the name and telephone number of the person who prepared the report so that we will know who to contact if we have any questions. It is not necessary to sign the form.
- 5. The next several sections are for processing aspects of the plant.
 "Processing" means anything done to the product to increase its economic value. This would include, but is not limited to, filleting, steaking, surimi or analog production, shucking, cooking, removing the roe, or otherwise preparing the product. If the products already listed on the form are correct, please fill in the appropriate **finished** product volume and FOB plant values. Plant value is the amount that the processor receives for the finished product. For products finished but not yet sold (still held in inventory), calculate the estimated value using the average price received to date for that product.
- 6. Processors of canned products, please be sure to include the ounces per can, cans per case, and number of cases instead of weight. If the information is already included on the form, please check it for accuracy.
- 7. List any **NEW** products in the appropriate section with volume and values. If a product no longer applies, just draw a line through it.
- 8. We recommend that you make a copy of the completed survey for your files. A pre-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience in returning the form to this office.
- 9. If you have any questions please call the NMFS Port Agent office nearest you. A listing of port offices has been provided with this mailing.

Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: National Marine Fisheries Service

Fisheries Statistics & Economics Division F/ST1 1315 East - West Hwy. Silver Spring, MD 20910

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

MAIL SURVEY LETTER EXAMPLE

Dear Processor:

The National Marine Fisheries Service conducts an annual survey of all seafood processors that operate in the United States. Your firm has been identified as participating in this industry. Please take a moment and fill out the enclosed form and return it in the enclosed envelope.

This survey is the only comprehensive survey of the U.S. seafood processing industry and is the source of all regional and national statistics. Reports generated from these statistics include <u>Fisheries of the United States</u> and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's yearbook, <u>Fishery Statistics-Commodities</u>.

The data you provide are also used for calculating annual United States seafood consumption and for determining the value added margins and consumer expenditures related to commercial fisheries. The NMFS Trade Office and the International Trade Commission use the data in multilateral trade negotiations and tariff studies. Industry trade organizations and members of the industrial and financial communities use the data to make business decisions affecting the fishing and seafood industries.

While you are not required to report, please be assured that all information regarding production and employment of individual firms is maintained in a confidential manner pursuant to NOAA Administrative Order 216-100.

The instructions on the reverse are provided to assist you in completely and accurately preparing the forms. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Steven Koplin at National Marine Fisheries Service, Fisheries Statistics and Economics Division F/ST1, 1315 East-West Hwy, Silver Spring, MD 20910 or call (301) 713-2328.

Sincerely,

Your Regional Director

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FORM

- 1. Check your company name, mailing address, and phone/fax numbers. If your plant address differs from your mail address please fill in the appropriate information. Make any necessary corrections that you find in error.
- 2. In the upper right hand corner indicate the type of business you operate.
- 3. In the box to the right of your address is the employment section. Enter by month the number of persons which worked at the establishment during the payroll period that included the 12th of the month. Do not forget to include yourself.
- 4. Directly beneath the employment section, please print or type the name and telephone number of the person who prepared the report so that we will know who to contact if we have any questions. It is not necessary to sign the form.
- 5. The next several sections are for processing aspects of the plant. "Processing" means anything done to the product to increase its economic value. This would include, but is not limited to, filleting, steaking, surimi or analog production, shucking, cooking, removing the roe, or otherwise preparing the product. If the products already listed on the form are correct, please fill in the appropriate **finished** product volume and FOB plant values. Plant value is the amount that the processor receives for the finished product. For products finished but not yet sold (still held in inventory), calculate the estimated value using the average price received to date for that product.
- 6. Processors of canned products, please be sure to include the ounces per can, cans per case, and number of cases instead of weight. If the information is already included on the form, please check it for accuracy.
- 7. List any **NEW** products in the appropriate section with volume and values. If a product no longer applies, just draw a line through it.
- 8. We recommend that you make a copy of the completed survey for your files. A pre-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience in returning the form to this office.
- 9. If you have any questions, call the Fisheries Statistics Division at: (301) 713-2328.

Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: National Marine Fisheries Service

Fisheries Statistics & Economics Division F/ST1 1315 East - West Hwy. Silver Spring, MD 20910

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

This report is authorized by law 13 U.S C 61 and 16 U.S.C. 1854(e). While you are not required to respond yourcooperation is needed to make the results ofthissurveycomprehensive, accurate and timely.

M ONTH	NOAA Form 88-13c U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (1 I-98) NOAA-NMFS								
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name, place(s) of business (principal place of business if applying for a surf clam and ocean quahog permit), mailing address(es) and telephone number(s), owner's name, dealer permit number (if a renewal), name and signature of the person responsible for the truth and accuracy of the application, a copy of the certificate of incorporation if the business is a corporation, and a copy of the partnership agreement and the names and addresses of all partners, if the business is a partnership, name of at-sea processor vessel, and current vessel documentation papers.

- (d) Fees. Same as §648.4(d).
- (e) Issuance. Except as provided in subpart D of 15 CFR part 904, the Regional Administrator will issue a permit at any time during the fishing year to an applicant, unless the applicant fails to submit a completed application. An application is complete when all requested forms, information, and documentation have been received and the applicant has submitted all applicable reports specified in §648.7 during the 12 months immediately preceding the application. Upon receipt of an incomplete or improperly executed application, the Regional Administrator will notify the applicant of the deficiency in the application. If the applicant fails to correct the deficiency within 30 days following the date of notification, the application will be considered abandoned.
 - (f) Expiration. Same as §648.4(g).
- (g) *Duration*. A permit is valid until it is revoked, suspended, or modified under 15 CFR part 904, or otherwise expires, or ownership changes, or the applicant has failed to report any change in the information on the permit application to the Regional Administrator as required by paragraph (j) of this section.
- (h) *Reissuance*. Reissued permits, for otherwise valid permits, may be issued by the Regional Administrator when requested in writing by the applicant, stating the need for reissuance and the Federal dealer permit number assigned. An application for a reissuance are reissuance. An appropriate fee may be charged.

- (i) *Transfer.* Permits issued under this part are not transferable or assignable. A permit is valid only for the person to whom, or other business entity to which, it is issued.
- (j) Change in application information. Same as §648.5(k).
 - (k) Alteration. Same as §648.4(i).
 - (l) Display. Same as §648.5(m).
- (m) Federal versus state requirements. If a requirement of this part differs from a fisheries management measure required by state law, any dealer issued a Federal dealer permit must comply with the more restrictive requirement.
 - (n) Sanctions. Same as §648.4(m).

[61 FR 34968, July 3, 1996, as amended at 61 FR 43425, Aug. 23, 1996; 61 FR 58465, Nov. 15, 1996; 64 FR 57593, Oct. 26, 1999; 65 FR 45851, July 26, 2000]

§648.7 Recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

- (a) Dealers—(1) Detailed weekly report. Federally permitted dealers must submit to the Regional Administrator or to the official designee a detailed weekly report, within the time periods specified in paragraph (f) of this section, on forms supplied by or approved by the Regional Administrator and a report of all fish purchases, except surf clam and ocean quahog dealers or processors who are required to report only surf clam and ocean quahog purchases. If authorized in writing by the Regional Administrator, dealers may submit reports electronically or through other media. The following information, and any other information required by the Regional Administrator, must be provided in the report:
- (i) All dealers issued a dealer permit under this part, with the exception of those utilizing the surf clam or ocean quahog dealer permit, must provide: Dealer name and mailing address; dealer permit number; name and permit number or name and hull number (USCG documentation number or state registration number, which ever is applicable) of vessels from which fish are landed or received; trip identifier for a trip from which fish are landed or received; dates of purchases; pounds by species (by market category, if applicable); price per pound by species (by market category, if applicable) or total value by species (by market category,

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if applicable); port landed; signature of person supplying the information; and any other information deemed necessary by the Regional Administrator. The dealer or other authorized individual must sign all report forms. If no fish are purchased during a reporting week, no written report is required to be submitted. If no fish are purchased during an entire reporting month, a report so stating on the required form must be submitted.

(ii) Surf clam and ocean quahog processors and dealers must provide: Date of purchase or receipt; name, permit number and mailing address; number of bushels by species; cage tag numbers; allocation permit number; vessel name and permit number; price per bushel by species. Dealers must also report disposition of surf clams or ocean quahogs, including name and permit number of recipients. Processors must also report size distribution and meat yield

per bushel by species.

(2) Weekly IVR system reports. (i) Federally permitted dealers purchasing quota-managed species not deferred from coverage by the Regional Administrator pursuant to paragraph (a)(2)(ii) of this section must submit, within the time period specified in paragraph (f) of this section, the following information, and any other information required by the Regional Administrator, to the Regional Administrator or to an official designee, via the IVR system established by the Regional Administrator: Dealer permit number; dealer code; pounds purchased, by species; reporting week in which species were purchased; and state of landing for each species purchased. If no purchases of quotamanaged species not deferred from coverage by the Regional Administrator pursuant to paragraph (a)(2)(ii) of this section were made during the week, a report so stating must be submitted through the IVR system in accordance with paragraph (f) of this section.

(ii) The Regional Administrator may defer any quota-managed species from the IVR system reporting requirements if landings are not expected to reach levels that would cause the applicable target exploitation rate corresponding to a given domestic annual harvest limit, target or actual TAC, or annual or seasonal quota specified for that

species to be exceeded. The Regional Administrator shall base any such determination on the purchases reported, by species, in the comprehensive written reports submitted by dealers and other available information. If the Regional Administrator determines that any quota-managed species should be deferred from the weekly IVR system reporting requirements, the Regional Administrator shall publish notification so stating in the FEDERAL REG-ISTER. If data indicate that landing levels have increased to an extent that this determination ceases to be valid, the Regional Administrator shall terminate the deferral by publishing notification in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(3) Annual report. All persons required to submit reports under paragraph (a)(1) of this section are required to submit the following information on an annual basis, on forms supplied by the

Regional Administrator:

(i) All dealers issued a dealer permit under this part, with the exception of those processing only surf clams or ocean quahogs, must complete the "Employment Data" section of the Annual Processed Products Report; completion of the other sections of that form is voluntary. Reports must be submitted to the address supplied by the Regional Administrator.

(ii) Surf clam and ocean quahog processors and dealers must provide the average number of processing plant employees during each month of the year just ended; average number of employees engaged in production of processed surf clam and ocean quahog products, by species, during each month of the year just ended; plant capacity to process surf clam and ocean quahog shellstock, or to process surf clam and ocean quahog meats into finished products, by species; an estimate, for the next year, of such processing capacities; and total payroll for surf clam and ocean quahog processing, by month. If the plant processing capacities required to be reported in this paragraph (a)(3)(ii) change more than 10 percent during any year, the processor shall notify the Regional Administrator in writing within 10 days after the change.

(b) Vessel owners or operators.—(1) Fishing Vessel Trip Reports—(i) The

owner or operator of any vessel issued a permit under this part must maintain on board the vessel, and submit, an accurate daily fishing log report for all fishing trips, regardless of species fished for or taken, on forms supplied by or approved by the Regional Administrator. If authorized in writing by the Regional Administrator, a vessel owner or operator may submit reports electronically, for example by using a VMS or other media. With the exception of those vessel owners or operators fishing under a surf clam or ocean quahog permit, at least the following information and any other information required by the Regional Administrator must be provided: Vessel name, USCG documentation number (or state registration number, if undocumented); permit number; date/time sailed; date/ time landed; trip type; number of crew; number of anglers (if a charter or party boat); gear fished; quantity and size of gear; mesh/ring size; chart area fished; average depth; latitude/longitude (or loran station and bearings); total hauls per area fished; average tow time duration; pounds by species (or count, if a party or charter vessel) of all species landed or discarded; dealer permit number; dealer name; date sold; port and state landed; and vessel operator's name, signature, and operator's permit number (if applicable).

(ii) Surf clam and ocean quahog vessel owners and operators. The owner or operator of any vessel conducting any surf clam and ocean quahog fishing operations, except those conducted exclusively in waters of a state that requires cage tags or when he/she has surrendered the surf clam and ocean quahog fishing vessel permit, shall maintain, on board the vessel, an accurate daily fishing log for each fishing trip, on forms supplied by the Regional Administrator, showing at least: Name and permit number of the vessel, total amount in bushels of each species taken, date(s) caught, time at sea, duration of fishing time, locality fished, crew size, crew share by percentage, landing port, date sold, price per bushel, buyer, tag numbers from cages used, quantity of surf clams and ocean quahogs discarded, and allocation permit number.

(c) When to fill out a log report. Log reports required by paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section must be filled out, except for information required but not yet ascertainable, before offloading or landing has begun. All information must be filled out before starting the next fishing trip. Log reports required by paragraph (b)(1)(ii) of this section must be filled out before landing any surf clams or ocean quahogs.

(d) Inspection. All persons required to submit reports under this section, upon the request of an authorized officer, or by an employee of NMFS designated by the Regional Administrator to make such inspections, must make immediately available for inspection copies of the required reports that have been submitted, or should have been submitted, and the records upon which the reports were based. At any time during or after a trip, owners and operators must make immediately available for inspection the fishing log reports currently in use, or to be submitted.

(e) Record retention. Copies of reports, and records upon which the reports were based, must be retained and be available for review for 1 year after the date of the last entry on the report. Copies of fishing log reports must be retained and available for review for 1 year after the date of the last entry on the log. Dealers must retain required reports and records at their principal

place of business.

(f) Submitting reports—(1) Dealer or processor reports. (i) Detailed weekly trip reports, required by paragraph (a)(1) of this section, must be postmarked or received within 16 days after the end of each reporting week. If no fish are purchased during a reporting month, the report so stating required under paragraph (a)(1)(i) of this section must be postmarked or received within 16 days after the end of the reporting month.

- (ii) Weekly IVR system reports required in paragraph (a)(2) of this section must be submitted via the IVR system by midnight, Eastern time, each Tuesday for the previous reporting week.
- (iii) Annual reports for a calendar year must be postmarked or received by February 10 of the following year. Contact the Regional Administrator

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(see Table 1 to $\S 600.502$) for the address of NMFS Statistics.

- (2) Fishing vessel log reports. Fishing log reports must be received or postmarked, if mailed, within 15 days after the end of the reporting month. Each owner will be sent forms and instructions, including the address to which reports are to be submitted, shortly after receipt of a Federal fisheries permit. If no fishing trip is made during a month, a report stating so must be submitted.
- (3) At-sea purchasers, receivers, or processors. All persons purchasing, receiving, or processing any mackerel, or squid, or butterfish, or scup, or black sea bass at sea for landing at any port of the United States must submit information identical to that required by paragraph (a)(1), (a)(2), or (a)(3) of this section, as applicable, and provide those reports to the Regional Administrator or designee on the same frequency basis.
- (g) Additional data and sampling. Federally permitted dealers must allow access to their premises and make available to an official designee of the Regional Administrator any fish purchased from vessels for the collection of biological data. Such data include, but are not limited to, length measurements of fish and the collection of age structures such as otoliths or scales.
- [61 FR 34968, July 3, 1996, as amended at 61 FR 43425, Aug. 23, 1996; 61 FR 58465, Nov. 15, 1996; 62 FR 14646, Mar. 27, 1997; 63 FR 52640, Oct. 1, 1998; 63 FR 58329, Oct. 30, 1998; 64 FR 57593, Oct. 26, 1999; 65 FR 1569, Jan. 11, 2000; 65 FR 45851, July 26, 2000]

§ 648.8 Vessel identification.

- (a) Vessel name and official number. Each fishing vessel subject to this part and over 25 ft (7.6 m) in registered length must:
- (1) Affix permanently its name on the port and starboard sides of the bow and, if possible, on its stern.
- (2) Display its official number on the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull, and on an appropriate weather deck so as to be clearly visible from enforcement vessels and aircraft. The official number is the USCG documentation number or the vessel's state registration number for vessels not re-

quired to be documented under title 46 U.S.C.

- (b) Numerals. Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, the official number must be displayed in block arabic numerals in contrasting color at least 18 inches (45.7 cm) in height for fishing vessels over 65 ft (19.8 m) in registered length, and at least 10 inches (25.4 cm) in height for all other vessels over 25 ft (7.6 m) in registered length. The registered length of a vessel, for purposes of this section, is that registered length set forth in USCG or state records.
- (c) *Duties of owner*. The owner of each vessel subject to this part shall ensure that—
- (1) The vessel's name and official number are kept clearly legible and in good repair.
- (2) No part of the vessel, its rigging, its fishing gear, or any other object obstructs the view of the official number from any enforcement vessel or aircraft.
- (d) Non-permanent marking. Vessels carrying recreational fishing parties on a per capita basis or by charter must use markings that meet the above requirements, except for the requirement that they be affixed permanently to the vessel. The non-permanent markings must be displayed in conformity with the above requirements.
- (e) New Jersey surf clam or ocean quahog vessels. Instead of complying with paragraph (a) of this section, surf clam or ocean quahog vessels licensed under New Jersey law may use the appropriate vessel identification markings established by that state.

§ 648.9 VMS requirements.

(a) Approval. The Regional Administrator will annually approve VMSs that meet the minimum performance criteria specified in paragraph (b) of this section. Any changes to the performance criteria will be published annually in the FEDERAL REGISTER and a list of approved VMSs will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER upon addition or deletion of a VMS from the list. In the event that a VMS is deleted from the list, vessel owners that purchased a VMS unit that is part of that VMS prior to publication of the revised

SEC. 303. CONTENTS OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS 16 U.S.C. 1853

95-354, 99-659, 101-627, 104-297

- **(a) REQUIRED PROVISIONS.**—Any fishery management plan which is prepared by any Council, or by the Secretary, with respect to any fishery, shall—
- (1) contain the conservation and management measures, applicable to foreign fishing and fishing by vessels of the United States, which are--
 - (A) necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery to prevent overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks, and to protect, restore, and promote the long-term health and stability of the fishery;
 - (B) described in this subsection or subsection (b), or both; and
 - (C) consistent with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, regulations implementing recommendations by international organizations in which the United States participates (including but not limited to closed areas, quotas, and size limits), and any other applicable law;
- (2) contain a description of the fishery, including, but not limited to, the number of vessels involved, the type and quantity of fishing gear used, the species of fish involved and their location, the cost likely to be incurred in management, actual and potential revenues from the fishery, any recreational interest in the fishery, and the nature and extent of foreign fishing and Indian treaty fishing rights, if any;
- (3) assess and specify the present and probable future condition of, and the maximum sustainable yield and optimum yield from, the fishery, and include a summary of the information utilized in making such specification;
 - (4) assess and specify-
 - (A) the capacity and the extent to which fishing vessels of the United States, on an annual basis, will harvest the optimum yield specified under paragraph (3),
 - (B) the portion of such optimum yield which, on an annual basis, will not be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States and can be made available for foreign fishing, and
 - (C) the capacity and extent to which United States fish processors, on an annual basis, will process that portion of such optimum yield that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States:
- (5) specify the pertinent data which shall be submitted to the Secretary with respect to commercial, recreational, and charter fishing in the fishery, including, but not limited to,

16 U.S.C. 1853

information regarding the type and quantity of fishing gear used, catch by species in numbers of fish or weight thereof, areas in which fishing was engaged in, time of fishing, number of hauls, and the estimated processing capacity of, and the actual processing capacity utilized by, United States fish processors;

- (6) consider and provide for temporary adjustments, after consultation with the Coast Guard and persons utilizing the fishery, regarding access to the fishery for vessels otherwise prevented from harvesting because of weather or other ocean conditions affecting the safe conduct of the fishery; except that the adjustment shall not adversely affect conservation efforts in other fisheries or discriminate among participants in the affected fishery;
- (7) describe and identify essential fish habitat for the fishery based on the guidelines established by the Secretary under section 305(b)(1)(A), minimize to the extent practicable adverse effects on such habitat caused by fishing, and identify other actions to encourage the conservation and enhancement of such habitat;
- (8) in the case of a fishery management plan that, after January 1, 1991, is submitted to the Secretary for review under section 304(a) (including any plan for which an amendment is submitted to the Secretary for such review) or is prepared by the Secretary, assess and specify the nature and extent of scientific data which is needed for effective implementation of the plan;
- (9) include a fishery impact statement for the plan or amendment (in the case of a plan or amendment thereto submitted to or prepared by the Secretary after October 1, 1990) which shall assess, specify, and describe the likely effects, if any, of the conservation and management measures on--
 - (A) participants in the fisheries and fishing communities affected by the plan or amendment; and
 - (B) participants in the fisheries conducted in adjacent areas under the authority of another Council, after consultation with such Council and representatives of those participants;
- (10) specify objective and measurable criteria for identifying when the fishery to which the plan applies is overfished (with an analysis of how the criteria were determined and the relationship of the criteria to the reproductive potential of stocks of fish in that fishery) and, in the case of a fishery which the Council or the Secretary has determined is approaching an overfished condition or is overfished, contain conservation and management measures to prevent overfishing or end overfishing and rebuild the fishery;
- (11) establish a standardized reporting methodology to assess the amount and type of bycatch occurring in the fishery, and include conservation and management measures that, to the extent practicable and in the following priority--
 - (A) minimize bycatch; and

- (B) minimize the mortality of bycatch which cannot be avoided;
- (12) assess the type and amount of fish caught and released alive during recreational fishing under catch and release fishery management programs and the mortality of such fish, and include conservation and management measures that, to the extent practicable, minimize mortality and ensure the extended survival of such fish;
- (13) include a description of the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors which participate in the fishery and, to the extent practicable, quantify trends in landings of the managed fishery resource by the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors; and
- (14) to the extent that rebuilding plans or other conservation and management measures which reduce the overall harvest in a fishery are necessary, allocate any harvest restrictions or recovery benefits fairly and equitably among the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors in the fishery.

97-453, 99-659, 101-627, 102-251, 104-297

- **(b) DISCRETIONARY PROVISIONS.**--Any fishery management plan which is prepared by any Council, or by the Secretary, with respect to any fishery, may--
- (1) require a permit to be obtained from, and fees to be paid to, the Secretary, with respect to--
 - (A) any fishing vessel of the United States fishing, or wishing to fish, in the exclusive economic zone [or special areas,]* or for anadromous species or Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond such zone [or areas]*;
 - (B) the operator of any such vessel; or
 - (C) any United States fish processor who first receives fish that are subject to the plan;
- (2) designate zones where, and periods when, fishing shall be limited, or shall not be permitted, or shall be permitted only by specified types of fishing vessels or with specified types and quantities of fishing gear;
- (3) establish specified limitations which are necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery on the--
 - (A) catch of fish (based on area, species, size, number, weight, sex, bycatch, total biomass, or other factors);
 - (B) sale of fish caught during commercial, recreational, or charter fishing, consistent with any applicable Federal and State safety and quality requirements; and

- (C) transshipment or transportation of fish or fish products under permits issued pursuant to section 204;
- (4) prohibit, limit, condition, or require the use of specified types and quantities of fishing gear, fishing vessels, or equipment for such vessels, including devices which may be required to facilitate enforcement of the provisions of this Act;
- (5) incorporate (consistent with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, and any other applicable law) the relevant fishery conservation and management measures of the coastal States nearest to the fishery;
- (6) establish a limited access system for the fishery in order to achieve optimum yield if, in developing such system, the Council and the Secretary take into account--
 - (A) present participation in the fishery,
 - (B) historical fishing practices in, and dependence on, the fishery,
 - (C) the economics of the fishery,
 - (D) the capability of fishing vessels used in the fishery to engage in other fisheries,
 - (E) the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery and any affected fishing communities, and
 - (F) any other relevant considerations;
- (7) require fish processors who first receive fish that are subject to the plan to submit data (other than economic data) which are necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery;
- (8) require that one or more observers be carried on board a vessel of the United States engaged in fishing for species that are subject to the plan, for the purpose of collecting data necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery; except that such a vessel shall not be required to carry an observer on board if the facilities of the vessel for the quartering of an observer, or for carrying out observer functions, are so inadequate or unsafe that the health or safety of the observer or the safe operation of the vessel would be jeopardized;
- (9) assess and specify the effect which the conservation and management measures of the plan will have on the stocks of naturally spawning anadromous fish in the region;
- (10) include, consistent with the other provisions of this Act, conservation and management measures that provide harvest incentives for participants within each gear group to employ fishing practices that result in lower levels of bycatch or in lower levels of the mortality of bycatch;

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- (11) reserve a portion of the allowable biological catch of the fishery for use in scientific research; and
- (12) prescribe such other measures, requirements, or conditions and restrictions as are determined to be necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery.

97-453, 104-297

Sec. 61. Collection and publication

- (a) The Secretary shall collect, collate, and publish monthly statistics concerning
 - o (1) the quantities of -
 - (A) cotton seed, soybeans, peanuts, flaxseed, corn germs, copra, sesame seed, babassu nuts and kernels, and other oilseeds, nuts, and kernels received, crushed, and on hand at oil mills;
 - (B) crude and refined oils, cakes, and meals, and other primary products, by type or kind, of the seeds, nuts, and kernels referred to in clause (A) of this paragraph, manufactured, shipped out, and on hand at oil mills and processing establishments;
 - (C) crude and refined vegetable oils, by type or kind, used by class of product and held by manufacturers of vegetable shortening, margarine, soap, and other principal products using large quantities of vegetable oils;
 - (D) crude and refined vegetable oils, by type or kind, held in warehouses and in transit to consuming establishments; and (2) the quantities, by types or kinds, of -
 - (A) animal fats and oils and greases produced;
 - (B) animal fats and oils and greases shipped and held by producers;
 - (C) animal fats and oils and greases, fish and marine mammal oils used by class of product and held by manufacturers of shortening, margarine, soap, and other principal products which require the use of large quantities of animal fats and oils and greases, fish and marine mammal oils;
 - (D) animal fats and oils and greases, fish and marine mammal oils held in warehouses, cold storage, and in transit to consuming establishments.
- (b) The Secretary shall not be required to collect, more frequently than he deems necessary to provide reliable statistical reports, information from any person who produces, holds, or consumes fats and oils in inconsequential quantities.

burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: May 10, 2001.

Madeleine Clayton,

Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer. [FR Doc. 01–12362 Filed 5–15–01; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 3510–KD–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051001E]

Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Proposed information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before July 16, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington DC 20230 (or via the Internet at MClayton@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Dr. David A. Van Voorhees, U. S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, Fisheries Statistics & Economics Division, F/ST1, Room 12454, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301–713-2328, ext. 154).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Marine recreational anglers are surveyed for catch and effort data, fish biology data, and angler socioeconomic characteristics. These data are required to carry out provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), as amended, regarding conservation and management of fishery resources.

II. Method of Collection

A random-digit-dialing telephone survey of coastal zone households collects data on the proportion of marine fishing households and the number of shore and private/rental boat fishing trips by residents of those households. A directory telephone survey of boat operators collects data on the numbers of angler fishing trips on party and charter boats. On-site intercept interviews of marine recreational anglers collect data on the catch per trip by species. Supplemental surveys collect economic data about marine recreational fishing.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648–0052.
Form Number: None.
Type of Review: Regular submission.
Affected Public: Individuals or
households, business or other for-profit
organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 585,383.

Estimated Time Per Response: 7 minutes for fishing households, 7 minutes for party/charter boat operators, 4.5 minutes for intercepted anglers, 3 minutes for supplemental economic data from fishing households, 5 minutes for supplemental economic data from party/charter boat operators, 8 minutes for supplemental economic data from intercepted anglers, 1.5 minutes for verification calls, 1 minute for non-fishing households, .5 minutes for non-households.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 27,207.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the

burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: May 10, 2001.

Madeleine Clayton,

Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer. [FR Doc. 01–12364 Filed 5–15–01; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051001F]

Processed Products Family of Forms

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). **ACTION:** Proposed information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before July 16, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington DC 20230 (or via the Internet at MClayton@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Steven J. Koplin, F/ST1, Room 12456, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910–3282 (phone 301–713–2328, ext. 209).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

NOAA annually collects information from seafood and industrial fishing processing plants on the volume and value of their processed fishery products and their monthly employment figures. NOAA also monthly collects information on the production of fish meal and oil. The information gathered is used by NOAA in the economic and social analyses used when proposing and evaluating fishery management actions.

II. Method of Collection

Paper forms are sent to respondents. NOAA is in the process of developing the capability for the online submission of requested data.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0018.

Form Number: NOAA Forms 88–13, 88–13C.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other forprofit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,320.

Estimated Time Per Response: 30 minutes for an Annual Processed Products Report and 15 minutes for a Fishery Products Report Fish Meal and Oil, Monthly.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 680.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected: and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: May 10, 2001.

Madeleine Clayton.

Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer. [FR Doc. 01–12366 Filed 5–15–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D.050801A]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Nez Perce Indian Tribe has submitted a Tribal resource management plan (Tribal Plan) to NMFS pursuant to the limitation on take prohibitions for actions conducted under Tribal Plans promulgated under the Endangered Species Act. The Tribal Plan specifies the management of recreational, ceremonial, and subsistence fisheries in 2001 in the Imnaha River basin in the State of Oregon that potentially affect Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon listed as threatened under the ESA. This document serves to notify the public of the availability for comment of the proposed evaluation of the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) as to how the Tribal Plan addresses the criteria in the ESA.

DATES: Written comments on the Secretary's pending determination must be received no later than 5 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on May 29, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests for copies of the pending determination should be addressed to Herb Pollard, Sustainable Fisheries Division, 10215 W. Emerald St. Suite 180, Boise, ID 83704. Comments may also be sent via fax to 208/378–5699. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Herb Pollard at phone number: 208/378–5614, or e-mail: herbert.pollard@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is relevant to the Imnaha River basin population of the Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU).

Background

The Nez Perce Tribe has submitted to NMFS a Tribal Plan for recreational, ceremonial, and subsistence fisheries in 2001 in the Imnaha River basin potentially affecting threatened Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon.

The Tribal Plan includes recreational fisheries specified by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, acting as an agent of the Nez Perce Tribe, that take place in the same waters and in the same timeframe as the tribal ceremonial and subsistence fisheries. The Nez Perce Tribe and the State of Oregon have comanager responsibilities for spring chinook salmon within the Imnaha River sub-basin and manage this salmon population under cooperative agreements. The objective of the Tribal Plan is to harvest spring chinook in a manner that does not jeopardize the survival and recovery of the ESU. Impact levels to the listed spring chinook populations in the ESU are specified in the Tribal Plan. Analysis of the predicted return of naturally and hatchery-produced spring chinook salmon to the Imnaha River basin in 2001 and the proposed harvest levels indicate that all hatchery brood stock and supplemental spawning needs will be met and natural spawning escapement will be approximately 133 percent of the previously highest count, after the proposed fisheries. A variety of monitoring and evaluation tasks to be conducted by the co-managers is specified in the Tribal Plan to assess the abundance of spring chinook and to determine fishery effort and catch of spring chinook. A comprehensive review of the Tribal Plan to evaluate whether the fisheries and listed spring chinook populations are performing as expected will be done within and at the end of the proposed 2001 season.

As required by the ESA 4(d) rule for Tribal Plans (65 FR 42481, July 10, 2000), the Secretary is seeking public comment on his pending determination as to whether the Tribal Plan for Imnaha River chinook salmon would appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of the threatened Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon ESU.

Under section 4 (d) of the ESA, the Secretary is required to adopt such regulations as he deems necessary and advisable for the conservation of species listed as threatened. NMFS has issued a final ESA 4(d) Rule for Tribal Plans adopting regulations necessary and advisable to harmonize statutory conservation requirements with tribal rights and the Federal trust responsibility to tribes (65 FR 42481, July 10, 2000). This 4(d) Rule for Tribal Plans applies the prohibitions enumerated in section 9(a)(1) of the ESA. NMFS did not find it necessary and advisable to apply the take prohibitions described in section 9(a)(1)(B) and 9 (a)(1)(C) to fishery harvest activities if the fisheries are